

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend to read as follows.

1. (currently amended): A process of flocculating and dewatering an aqueous suspension of suspended solids comprising, introducing into the suspension comprising as an aqueous composition,

(a) a concentrated ~~polymer~~polymeric flocculant solution and,

(b) a dilute ~~polymer~~aqueous polymeric flocculant solution,

characterised in that the concentrated and dilute ~~polymer~~polymeric flocculant solutions are introduced into the ~~substrate~~suspension substantially simultaneously and the dilute solution and concentrated solution exist as substantially discrete components.

2. (cancelled):

3. (currently amended): A process according to claim 21 in which the aqueous composition comprises,

(a) 25 to 99%, by weight of the dilute aqueous solution of polymer and,

(b) 1 to 75% by weight of the concentrated solution of polymer.

4. (currently amended): A process according to claim 21 in which the aqueous composition comprises,

(a) 40 to 99%, by weight of the dilute aqueous solution of polymer and,

(b) 1 to 60% by weight of the concentrated solution of polymer.

5. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the dilute aqueous solution has a concentration of polymer of below 0.3% by weight.

6. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the dilute aqueous polymer solution comprises a cationic polymer, an anionic polymer or a nonionic polymer.

7. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the concentrated aqueous solution has a concentration of polymer of between 0.4 and 1.0%, by weight.

8. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 in which the concentrated aqueous solution comprises a cationic polymer, an anionic polymer or a nonionic polymer.

9. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer dissolved in the concentrated solution is either co-ionic with the polymer dissolved in the dilute solution or non-ionic.

10. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which polymer dissolved in either the dilute solution or the concentrated solution is cationic and has been formed from a monomer or blend of monomers comprising at least one cationic monomer selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium and acid salts of dimethylaminoethyl (meth) acrylate, quaternary ammonium and acid salts of dimethylaminoethyl (meth) acrylamide and diallyldimethyl ammonium chloride.

11. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer(s) dissolved in either the dilute solution or the concentrated solution is anionic and has been formed from a monomer or blend of monomers comprising at least one anionic monomer selected from the group consisting of (meth) acrylic acid, 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulphonic acid, alkali metal and ammonium salts thereof.

12. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer(s) dissolved in either the dilute solution or the concentrated solution is nonionic and has been formed from acrylamide or methacrylamide.

13. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the cationic polymer dissolved in each of the dilute and concentrated aqueous solutions is a copolymer of acrylamide and at least one cationic monomer selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium and acid salts of dimethylaminoethyl (meth) acrylate, quaternary ammonium and acid salts of dimethylaminoethyl (meth) acrylamide and diallyldimethyl ammonium chloride, having an intrinsic viscosity of at least 4 dl/g.

14. (currently amended): A process according to claim 21 in which the aqueous composition comprising the dilute aqueous solution of polymer and the concentrated solution of polymer is formed by introducing the concentrated solution of polymer into a flowing stream of the dilute aqueous solution of polymer.

15. (original): A process according to claim 14 in which the dilute aqueous solution of polymer is formed by diluting a flowing stream of the concentrated aqueous solution of polymer with dilution water.

16. (currently amended): A process according to claim-21 in which the aqueous composition is formed by,

(a) passing a concentrated solution of polymer to a dilution where the solution is combined with dilution water to form a dilute solution,

(b) passing the diluted solution through a mixing stage, selected from pumping and screening stages, and

(c) introducing a concentrated solution of polymer into the dilute aqueous solution.

17. (original): A process according to claim 16 in which the concentrated polymer solution, which is diluted to form the dilute polymer solution in step (a) is drawn from the same reservoir of concentrated polymer solution introduced into the dilute solution in step (c).

18. (original): A process according to claim 16 in which the concentrated solution of polymer in step (a) is drawn from a different reservoir of concentrated polymer solution introduced into the dilute solution in step (c).

19. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the dewatering process is selected from the group consisting of dewatering sewage sludge, dewatering a mineral suspension, dewatering a paper mill sludge, dewatering a deinked cellulosic sludge and a papermaking process.